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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Government consider the question of granting merit scholarships in respect of these pre-professional courses?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think it will be necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DECISION OF THE STATE AIDED SCHOOL MANAGERS TO CLOSE DOWN CERTAIN SCHOOLS.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Mr. Chairman, under rule 41 (1) of the Legislative Council Rules, I invite the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Finance to matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation arising out of the recent orders of Government with regard to grant-in-aid to aided elementary schools and the decision of the State Aided School Managers to close down certain schools and to give notice to the teachers terminating their services consequent on the new 'free education policy' of the Government. Sir, reference was made by hon. Members to this subject in the recent debate on the Governor's Address. 3–10 a.m. The latest development is that actually notices have been issued by the Correspondents to almost all the aided elementary school teachers stating specifically that "the Managements terminate their services with effect from 1st June 1959 and that they will be relieved on 31st May 1959." The plight of the teachers needs immediate attention at the hands of the Government. If their services are thus terminated and even though they get re-employed, they will be faced with reduction in their emoluments and unfortunate position affecting their pension, etc. This should be guarded against. The Correspondents of the aided elementary schools who have decided to levy fees have raised the rates of school fees abnormally for all standards and the parents of the children are affected thereby. Even these managements who have proposed to levy higher rates of tuition fees have given notice of termination of the services of the existing teachers. The attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education is, therefore, invited to this situation so that the Government may take prompt steps to relieve the distress of the teachers as well as the parents as a result of the latest orders of the Government. Perhaps, a conference with the representatives of the State Aided School Managements' Association would solve the tangle, because I feel the issues were forced on them too abruptly and they may be given time to adjust themselves to the changed policy of the Government. Anyway, prompt measures should be taken in the matter and I am sure the Hon. the Minister for Education would take necessary action and take the Legislature into confidence and tell us the specific steps proposed to be taken to allay the fears of the teachers, the parents and the aided school managements. The Hon. Minister would readily agree that the aided school managements have been doing good work and that they should not be shuffled out all too abruptly.

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. the Leader of the House yesterday in his reply to the discussion on the Governor's Address dealt with this subject elaborately and I do not think any more assurances from the Government would be necessary. But still to make the position quite clear, I would like to make the following statement :—

On the 29th November 1958, the Government issued an order (G.O. No. 2124, Education) to the following effect :—

(1) No fee shall be levied from any pupil for tuition in Standards (or classes or grades) I to V of any school (Lower elementary, Higher elementary, Junior Basic, Senior Basic or Special) under public management.

(2) In regard to schools under private management, two types of schools, with Standards I to V, shall be recognised, namely, (*a*) fee levying schools and (*b*) non-fee levying schools.

(3) The non-fee levying institutions shall be eligible for recognition as well as the usual grant-in-aid according to the rules and orders in force.

(4) The fee levying schools may levy such rates of fees as they deem fit. They shall not, however, be eligible for any grant-in-aid (or compensation grant) in respect of Standards I to V. Academic recognition for these institutions will be granted by the competent authority. They should conform to the syllabus prescribed, and fulfil such other conditions as may be attached to academic recognition.

These orders will apply to tuition fees only and will not apply to special fees which may be levied as per rules and orders for the use of the library, medical inspection, games or for any other special convenience.

The Government directed that these orders should come into force from the school year 1959–60. The Director of Public Instruction was requested to bring these orders to the notice, individually, of the private managements in charge of all schools where tuition fees were levied at present from pupils in Standards (or classes or grades) I to V and to ascertain from them, in due time whether they elected to remain as fee levying institutions on a non-aided basis in respect of Standards I to V or to function as non-fee levying institutions on an aided basis.

This order was issued in pursuance of the Government undertaking to accept and implement the recommendation of the Legislature Committee on the White Paper on Education that the first five years of schooling should be made compulsory in every village and town of the State by 1965–66. The recommendation had the approval of both the Houses of Legislature.

One of the recommendations of the Legislature Committee on the White Paper on Education was that an *Ad Hoc* Committee should be constituted to review the system of grants-in-aid to the educational institutions. This Committee has been constituted and

it is known as the ' Education Grants Committee '. It has recently submitted a report on Secondary Education. It has not so far considered the question of grants to elementary schools but will do so at its next meeting and it is likely to submit a report in the matter very soon. The Government Order in question was approved by this Committee before it was issued. This Committee will no doubt take into account the situation arising out of the order in making its recommendations regarding grants-in-aid to elementary schools. Some managements and the Association of Managements of Aided Elementary Schools have represented that it will not be possible for the managements to run the schools as non-fee levying schools on the basis of the grants-in-aid now in force, and that they cannot also continue as fee levying schools without the help of the Government grants.

In view of these representations, it has now been decided that the entire matter should be placed before the State Education Advisory Committee and its advice taken and acted upon. The final decision of the Government in the matter will be communicated to the managements and they will have then to decide whether they elect to be fee levying institutions or non-fee levying institutions. Managements of fee levying institutions which propose to change over to non-fee levying basis will be helped by the Government. To do so is no doubt difficult. If it is known that any school will not be able to continue on the terms offered by the Government, necessary arrangements would be made for the taking over of the management of such institutions so that the teachers and pupils may not suffer. In any case, the Government will make arrangements to see that no teacher is thrown out of employment and that no pupil is deprived of the facilities for education and there is no justification for any apprehension on this score. I will also request the managements of the schools not to take any precipitate action in the matter.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of information. May I ask the Hon. Minister . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the rule. this is a statement made by the Hon. Minister on which there can be no discussion, no point of information or point of order. I am sorry I am not in a position to allow the hon. Member to ask for any information on the statement made by the Hon. Minister.

We will now take up the Government Bill.

III.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE TIRUCHIRAPPALLI KAIAERUVARAM AND MATTUVARAM BILL, 1958 (L.A. BILL NO. 25 OF 1958)—*cont.*

Clause 2.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The motion is—

' That clause 2 do stand part of the Bill.'

Hon. Members Sri P. S. Krishnaswamy Ayyangar and Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar have given notice of certain amendments. They may move the amendments and get them seconded